W5YI

Nation's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter

REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable. May be reproduced providing credit is given to The W5YI Report.

Fred Maia, W5YI, Editor, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX 75356-5101
Tel. 817-461-6443 Electronic mail: 351-1297@mcimail.com

★ *In This Issue* ★

Vol. 17, Issue #10 **$1.50** PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH **May 15, 1995**

Dayton Hamvention 1995 - is now History!

Some 35,000 happy hams made their annual pilgrimage to the Dayton HamVention last week. It was the final time that the Dayton Amateur Radio Association sponsored event will be held the last weekend in April. It now moves to mid-May. The dates next year will be May 17, 18, and 19, 1996.

The Amateur Radio Industry Group (ARIG) held a meeting on Thursday, April 25th. John Dorr, K1AR led the discussions which included presentations by ARRL's Rosalie White WA1STO, Newsline's Bill Pasternak WA6ITF, AMSAT's Keith Baker KB1SF and Bill Tynan W3XO and TELEX's Steve Morris K7LXC. The general discussion focused on digital communications over the Internet and other on-line services and how they represent a possible threat to amateur radio communications.

Rosalie White, 1995 Dayton Ham of the Year, discussed the current status of amateur radio, FCC licensing statistics and the future ...including the upcoming World Radio Conference and possible new ham bands. She said that number of licensees, age 21 and under, as of March 1995 was 30,215 ...up 2,000 from a year ago. As of March 1995, ARRL members increased to an all-time high of 172,752. Bill Pasternak presented a video entitled "Always on the Air" that he is working on.

The future of Amateur Radio is in satellites! That was the theme of AMSAT's report on its upcoming Phase 3-D amateur satellite which is scheduled for launch in April 1996. Construction is well underway with AMSAT groups from Germany, South Africa, Japan, Finland, Britain, Belgium, Slovenia and the Czech Republic participating. Final assembly and check-out is taking place at a facility set up in Orlando, Florida.

The P3D satellite is nearly 20 feet wide when its solar panels are extended. In addition to the traditional 2m, 70cm, 23cm and 13 cm bands, P3D will operate on a variety of frequencies from 21/28 MHz HF to 24 GHz. It will support SSB, CW, SSTV and various digital modes. Fund raising is going well but more money is still needed to assure Phase 3D's successful completion and launch. (Contributions go to AMSAT-P3D, 850 Sligo Ave., Suite 600, Silver Spring, MD 20910.)

TELEX's Steve Morris gave a presentation that was extremely critical of an April 1995 QST article that seemed to urge new hams to shop for equipment via the "800 number" route rather than patronize local dealers. He strongly objected ...almost to the point of anger - at ARRL's publishing of an equipment purchasing system that he considered detrimental to the amateur equipment industry since it played one mail order firm against another.

More than a thousand people attending Saturday night's Grand Banquet heard an animated keynote speaker, Cliff Stoll, K7TA discuss the pros and cons of the digital revolution and amateur

THE W5YI REPORT [Pub. No. 009-311] is published twice monthly by The W5YI Group, 2000 E. Randol Mill Rd, #608A, Arlington, TX. 76011 **SUBSCRIPTION RATE:** (U.S., Canada and Mexico) One Year (24 issues) $24.50 · Two Years: $45.00 · Three Years: $64.00. Tel. 817/461-6443 Foreign Subscriptions via Air Mail: $39.50 per year. (Payment may be made by Check, Money Order, VISA or MasterCard payable in U.S. funds.) Second Class Postage paid at Arlington, TX. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to THE W5YI REPORT, P.O. Box 565101, Dallas, TX. 75356

radio. He said "The Internet may be a great digital frontier, but its a land without a soul. It will never replace ham radio."

FCC Forum

FCC's John B. Johnston, W3BE, and William T. Cross, AA3DI of the Private Radio Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau moderated the well attended FCC Forum on Sunday, April 30, 1995. Their presentation (and question and answer period which followed) ran overtime ...to nearly an hour and a half. Here is a verbatim copy of their remarks which we think you will find interesting.

"It has been a busy year for the FCC. Our Licensing Division switched over to a PC-based processing system. We held our first spectrum auctions. There was a new telephone system installed. And everyone got a brand new PC on their desk.

"It also was a busy year for the amateur service. Your ranks grew by 47,000 ...your biggest annual growth ever. Rules for a Vanity Call Sign system were adopted. Electronic filing and data base licensing came on-line. There were new rules for your automatic message forwarding systems and for automatic control of your HF stations. You were advanced to Primary on the 13 cm band. You got more frequencies on the 1.25 meter band.

"You made this possible. It is primarily through your petitions and comments that we develop our understanding of what it is that the amateur community needs and wants.

How rule making is handled by the FCC

"Most years, some 25 to 50 petitions come sailing over the transom asking for changes to Part 97. Most are frivolous, repetitive, based on misinformation, or otherwise do not deserve to occupy the FCC's time. If a petition contains something that the amateur community wants and that the FCC can provide, a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is drafted for the Bureau. If it is accepted, it is then presented to the Commissioners for their consideration. If they adopt the item, it is given a Docket number. This event is announced by a news release. The text follows shortly after so that you can see the exact proposal.

"You are then on notice that the FCC is thinking about changing Part 97. Get a copy of the NPRM and read it carefully. Determine that issues that are important to you. Read what your columnists have to say. Discuss it at your radio club or on the air or wherever and with whoever you can have a meaningful dialogue.

"However, do not discuss it with us. From that point in time when the FCC proposes a rule change until the Commissioners make a final decision, the entire matter is on the record. There must be no one-sided presentations to the FCC. That is the reason that we cannot take your remarks in this Forum on certain on-going proceedings. I'll list those for you before we open the floor for your remarks.

"File your comments with the Secretary of the FCC. Do not send them to your field office. Do not send them to the Licensing Division in Gettysburg.

"You an obtain most of our documents from our Internet server. We brought along a few copies of how to get FCC documents by the file transfer protocol.

"For any of you who are not doing so already, you can be a big help to the amateur service by becoming an expert on Part 97 and on the rule making process.

"You an help us keep the rules easy to read and easy to use. The amateur service should have the absolute minimum of rules. We believe that you appreciate rules that are understandable and that you respect rules that are timely and realistic.

"Keep an up-to-date copy of Part 97 handy. Put it on your word processor. Follow your media reports on rule making. When new rules are adopted, be the first in your radio club to update your Part 97.

"When someone files a petition and when the FCC issues an NPRM, put your reaction on the record by sending in comments. You can help by playing the Devil's advocate to your fellow hams.

"You can help by conducting forums like this for your radio club. Your program chairman will thank you. Feel free to use any of the information that we present today.

"Listen to what other hams have on their minds. Your electronic bulletin boards provide thoughtful discussions of the issues. They give you the opportunity to test your own views on the amateur community.

"Another way that you can help is by passing the word on 'WHY' the rules require what they do. Again, the reason a rule amendment is made is stated in the Order that adopted the rule. These documents are compiled in a publication called the FCC Record. It is for sale by the Government Printing Office. It may also be available in your public library.

"We often refer to the FCC Record. In the opening sentence of the vanity call sign Report and Order, for example, reference is made to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making. That sentence has a footnote which reads: '9 FCC Rcd 105 (1993).' That is in reference to where the NPRM can be found: Page 105 in Volume 9 of the FCC Record for 1993.

"There are other records that you can use. Rule making items are often printed in your publications. Some of them review what has taken place over the past year. Sometimes, they will trace a matter through

a series of rule makings from beginning to end. Some of them publish a yearly index, that is helpful in determining the specific issue and the page that contains the information that you are seeking.

Amateur radio communications

"Frequently, it is helpful to remind ourselves that amateur radio is, after all, a hobby. For most of this Century, it has been considered to be in the public interest for small segments of the radio spectrum to be set aside for use by persons like yourselves who are interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.

"You are to use this very valuable resource to conduct self-training, intercommunication, and technical investigations. Here in the United States, it is stated upfront in Part 97, just what benefits the public is to receive in return: A voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications, contributions to the advancement of the radio art, advancing skills, more trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts, and enhanced international goodwill.

"Part 97 is based upon the abiding belief that you and every other amateur know how to operate a station properly in the United States and that you will always do so.

"There are certain general standards that you will observe:

- You will use good engineering and good amateur practice.
- You will share the frequencies.
- You will cooperate fully in selecting transmitting channels.
- You will not willfully or maliciously cause interference.
- You will give priority to stations providing emergency communications.

"That is all codified in Section 97.101 entitled 'General standards.' Part 97 requires you to prove to your peers that you are qualified to operate an amateur station properly in the United States at one of six levels of privilege.

"Having done that, you are granted permission to use certain of the frequency bands to:

- Communicate directly with other amateur stations located practically anywhere in the World, even in space.
- Disseminate information bulletins and code practice.
- Communicate telecommand and telemetry.
- Operate a beacon, and
- Participate with other amateur stations in ad hoc communication systems.

"It appears that modern system operation can be quite a stretch for amateur radio. You handle the technical side very well, but the operational side often gives you difficulty.

"Part 97 provides you with great flexibility: 1,300 emission types; 1,500 watts; 27 frequency bands throughout the radio spectrum; no equipment type certification; you select your channel; and so on. It allows you to build practically any type of system. But it doesn't give you an exclusive right to any frequency. You have to share.

"Nor do the rules regulate your systems as such. You encounter a basic contradiction, moreover, when your system transmits on channels that must be shared with many other stations that may be participating in other systems or in no system at all.

"Depending upon their size, times of operation, and the propagation characteristics of the frequencies your systems use, those channels are, in effect, no longer sharable.

"So, you have to ask thousands -- if not millions -- of other hams to forego their self-training, intercommunication, and technical investigations on your systems' channels.

"Some of them, at least, may not share your enthusiasm for your systems. Perhaps they want those channels for their systems, or for some other type of communications. Possibly they feel threatened by new technology and new ideas. Maybe they just don't like the way you went about selecting the channels.

"It remains for you to convince the amateur community that it is in everyone's best interests for them to give way to your systems. Apparently, some of you are much more successful at obtaining the needed cooperation than others. It also remains for you to responsibly manage your system ...to oversee it and to make it work properly.

"It is also your responsibility to build into your system the degree of security that is needed to protect it against those who would abuse it. Initially, at least, the newness of the technology itself may provide your system with all of the security that it needs. Eventually, however, newness alone is probably not going to be sufficient.

"There is another hazard. As you design new systems, sooner or later you will find yourself impeded by Part 97.

"Today's rules are based upon your interests and technologies of yesterday. The rules won't change until the amateur community convinces both itself, and the FCC, that change is called for.

Digital message forwarding

"Message forwarding has always been one of your mainstream operating activities. You have had CW and phone nets since the very beginning.

"A decade ago or so ago, digital technology made high volume, high speed amateur systems practical. You linked your VHF and UHF stations to build easily-accessible automatic message forwarding packet systems.

"Some of your systems, however, could not handle high volumes of messages because the model Part 97 was based upon was that practiced by your phone and CW nets. Each operator in the relay chain screens every message before passing it along.

"These systems are very secure. Pirates and jokers simply can't take advantage of these systems. You make sure of that.

"They are also very slow. The rule making task, therefore, was to find an accommodation that would allow your message forwarding systems to operate at high speed without opening them up to intolerable abuse. There were forty-two comments and two reply comments filed.

"Your systems are often unsupervised. They are easy targets for pirates and jokers. Even well-supervised commercial systems have difficulty at times with hackers. It takes a lot of enforcement resources to police an unsupervised high speed system.

"It is important, therefore, that there be supervision of your systems. It must come from the amateur service community.

"It appeared that those who are in the best position to supervise are the control operators at the stations that accept messages from originating stations.

"The accommodation was based upon this approach. A new section was added to Part 97. First, it codifies your authority to participate in ad hoc message forwarding systems.

"The accommodation is that the control operator of the station originating a message is primarily accountable for any violation in the message

"When you accept communications directly from the station that originated it, yours is the first forwarding station. As such, you have a responsibility. Before you forward those communications into the system, you must do two things.

"Either you must authenticate the identity of the station from which you accepted the communications or you must accept accountability for any rule violations in the communications.

"All of the other control operators in the system are not accountable for violative communications their stations retransmit inadvertently. They rely upon you. They expect you to make sure that no violative communications enters the system through your station. They are, however, responsible for discontinuing such communications once they become aware of their presence.

"Another place that you have been anxious to build a new VHF high speed digital system is in the 219 - 220 MHz band. New rules went into effect this week that allow you access to this band on a secondary basis to the Automated Maritime Telecommunications System. There were 18 comments and 5 reply comments filed.

"Your station can now use this band only as a forwarding station in a fixed point-to-point digital message forwarding system, including intercity packet backbone networks.

"You must notify the League in writing of your station's specific geographic location at least 30 days prior to transmitting. The League will incorporate that information into a data base that is made available to the public.

"If your station is within 398 miles of an AMTS coast station, you must also notify the AMTS licensee in writing at least 30 days prior to transmitting. If your station is within 50 miles of an AMTS coast station, you must also obtain the written approval from the AMTS licensee. You can obtain the locations of AMTS Coast Stations from the League or from Interactive Systems, Inc., in Arlington, Virginia.

"The power limit is 50 watts PEP. The Data group of emission types is authorized. Those are those nine types listed in Section 97.3(c) for telemetry, telecommand, and computer communications.

"Two other accommodations that you wanted were adopted last week. They allow automatic control of your HF station while it is transmitting a digital emission type. There were nineteen comments filed.

"When your station is transmitting on a shared HF band, it usually demands greater attention from you than it does when it is transmitting on VHF and above where propagation is short range and far more reliable.

"The accommodations require, therefore, that your automatically controlled station must either be connected to another station that is under manual control or it must transmit within a designated subband. The new rules become effective July 1st.

Frequency allocations

"Congress is requiring that at least 200 MHz of Government spectrum be reallocated to the private sector. The first 50 MHz reallocation included the 13 centimeter band. You have been sharing this band on a co-secondary basis with Government services.

"The 2,390-2,400 MHz segment was allocated to

unlicensed low-power shore-range wireless LANs. The amateur service was elevated to primary status. This means that the LAN must not interfere with your operations and the users have no recourse against any interference that you happen to cause to them.

"The amateur service was also elevated to primary status in the 2,402-2,417 MHz segment. In this segment there are unlicensed cordless telephones and data devices operating under Part 15.

"As a frequency allocation matter, this Docket is being handled by the Office of Engineering and Technology.

Getting a call sign of your choice

"You told us many times that you wanted to choose your station's call sign. Two events are making that possible:

"First, there was legislation that specified a fee of seven dollars per year for the use of a vanity call sign.

"Secondly, the Licensing Division obtained the capability to administer a vanity call system.

"So, you were asked just what kind of a vanity system you wanted. You responded with one hundred and nine comments. Your major concern was that the system be fair and equitable.

"You said that you want a schedule of priority. Some of you want priority for the higher classes of license. Others favor priority to those who have been licensed the longest.

"Information on your operator class resides in the licensee data base and lends itself to an automated process. Information on the length of time you have been an amateur operator is not readily available, thus making that criterion impracticable to use as the basis for priority.

"The system will be opened gradually through four 'starting gates.'

"Gate One will open the system to a few thousand prior holders and close relatives of deceased prior holders. This phase will validate the system procedures and alert us to any adjustments needed. The subsequent gates will be opened when it is clear that the system is ready to accommodate more applications.

"Gate Two will allow 70,000 Amateur Extra Class operators, who have passed the most difficult license examinations, to apply.

"Gate Three will allow the 116,000 Advanced Class operators, who have passed the second most difficult license examinations, to apply.

"Gate Four will open the system to the remaining 485,000 licensees. A club station license trustee will also be allowed to apply for the call sign of a deceased former holder.

"The opening of each gate will be announced by a Public Notice.

"When that will be is not clear. There were five petitions for reconsideration filed. They include objections to obtaining a call sign for a region different from that of your mailing address and to obtaining a call sign of a deceased relative who held a higher operator class. Also, a provision is wanted that would allow clubs to come in at an earlier gate with a letter from a relative of the deceased. We are studying these petitions and preparing to draft a Memorandum Opinion and Order.

"If the decision is to revise the rules that were previously adopted, the Form 610-V that is now at the Office of Management and Budget awaiting approval may have to be revised. Also, the specifications for the support software may have to be changed.

"In any event, the first gate will not open until rules are finalized, the FCC Form 610-V is available, and our Licensing Division is prepared to begin processing the applications.

"We will continue your sequential call sign system for new hams and for those who do not want vanity call signs.

New Sequential Call Signs added

"The Sequential System has more call signs for Alaska, Hawaii, and the Caribbean Insular areas.

- "Alaska now has the numerals 1 through Ø, rather than just 7. Soon, you'll be hearing AL1, KL2, NL3, WL4, and so on. If you hear KL9KAA through KL9KHZ, however, it won't be Alaska. That series of 260 call signs is being held for use by United States military personnel stationed in Korea.
- "Hawaii now has the numeral 7 in addition to 6. Seven used to indicate Kure Island. Kure is one of the Hawaiian Islands. The format for Kure will be AH, KH, NH, or WH followed by the numeral 7 and the letter K as the first letter of the suffix.
- "Puerto Rico, except for Desecheo Island, now has the numeral 3 in addition to 4. Desecheo continues with the numeral 5.

"When the Vanity Call Sign Gate that applies to you opens, you can file a Form 610-V, together with $70.00, with the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh.

"After the Licensing Division receives your form from the bank, an automated process will compare your list of preferred call signs with the list of call signs that are assignable at that time. The forms will be processed in the order they are received at the processor's work station. The first assignable call sign from your list will be assigned to your station.

"The private sector will probably provide you with

lists of assignable call signs. Until after the initial surge of applications is completely processed, we foresee a very heavy demand for certain call signs so as to make it difficult for you to determine which call signs might be assignable. You will be allowed, therefore, to submit a preferential list of twenty-five call signs. This should increase your chances of requesting an assignable call sign.

"There is a two-year period before a vacated call sign become assignable. This is to avoid confusion in station identification, maintain accuracy in the licensee data base, and accommodate your QSL bureaus.

New club, military stations licenses

"The Licensing Division is also issuing new club and military recreation station licenses. They have the Group D two-by-three format call sign. Your club station will also be eligible for a vanity call sign.

"First your license trustee applies directly to the Licensing Division in Gettysburg for a club station license. Then you send the application for the club's vanity call sign to the Mellon Bank when the gate for your trustee's operator class opens.

"This is a two-step process because Form 610-V is the only application that you must file with the bank. If you do not already hold a club station license, therefore, you must first obtain and receive a license from Gettysburg before you can file with the bank for a vanity call sign.

"The fourth and final gate will allow your club station license trustee to apply for the call sign of a deceased former holder. Your license trustee must obtain a written consent from a close relative of the deceased.

"The 780 one-by-one call signs are not assignable under either the sequential of the vanity systems. They are being reserved for assignment to stations operating in conjunction with short term special events of national significance to you. They are set aside until the matter can be addressed in a future proceeding.

Electronic filing of license applications

"Another change to Part 97 has greatly reduced the time it takes for new hams to get on the air. The time and effort required for the VECs to send, and for Licensing to receive, application documents by mail has been eliminated. The Form 610 has been revised to accommodate electronic filing.

"Over 95 percent of the applications for your new and upgraded licenses are received electronically from your VECs. They enter the data from your application document into an electronic form that is sent at high speed over the telephone lines to our license processing facility. The license grant is made within 24 hours or less.

Immediate operation authorization

"Our licensing scheme has traditionally been based upon you holding a document. For most of you, after passing the tests, you had to delay getting on the air until a paper license was printed, mailed, and delivered. This procedure took several months during which you were not on the air.

"In recent years, we have come to relay more upon the licensee database than upon the paper document. The need for your to hold a document is not as essential as it once was.

"The decision to grant a license occurs when our processor enters the data into the database. Part 97 has been amended throughout so as to authorize operation on the basis of your data appearing in the database. It uses the term 'holding a license grant,' for instance, rather than 'holding a license document.'

"You can begin operation as soon as your name, operator class, and station information appears on the database.

"The complete amateur service licensee database is available on the Internet. it is updated by noon every Monday. You will need software to read it. Daily updates are posted on a five workday cycle.

New license renewal procedure

"For those of you whose license is due to expire later this year, you should be receiving an FCC Form 610-R that you may use for renewal. It will be filled out for you so that all you have to do is sign it and mail it back.

"If you do not receive the Form 610-R from the FCC within 30 days of the expiration date of your license, you should make application on FCC Form 610.

"When your application for renewal of the license has been received at Gettysburg prior to the license expiration date, your operating authority is continued until the final disposition of the application.

License examination issues

"All of the administering VE requirements that were spread over four separate rule sections have been combined into just one section.

"A new Section on examinee conduct has been added. It requires that an examinee must comply with the instructions given by the administering VEs.

"Part 97 now treats Technician Plus as a license class. Previously all Technicians were shown in the database under the single classification. The Tech Plus database maintained by the VECs has been discontinued.

Other rule making petitions under consideration

"RM-8418 (lifetime license) is from your League. It wants, henceforth, to encourage former hams to return by allowing them to become licensed without repassing your exams. It feels that there is no difference between two inactive hams, where on kept renewing his license and the other one didn't.

"RM-8301 was filed by the Western Carolina VEC. Most of the VECs use a supervisor on their VE teams. The ARRL/VEC, for example, has a VE Team Liaison who is the team's representative to the ARRL/VEC. The petition, in effect, asks that the role of these team supervisors be recognized in the rules. (See page 8.)

"RM-8462 is also from your League. It wants to raise the eligibility for a club station license to those with at least four members. (See page 8)

"Your League has also asked for a policy statement or declaratory ruling interpreting PRB-1.

"RM-8626 is to eliminate one-way bulletins and code practice on the HF and MF bands. You an file comments in support or opposition on this one until Thursday. Reply comments close on the 19th. We do not know whether or not there will be a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

"The latest one is to revise the 40 meter subbands: Digital at the high end, analog at the low end.

"Now before we move to your remarks, I must remind you that for those rule makings where the FCC has issued a Notice, but has not made the final determination, we cannot take your comments at this time. This Forum is not for the public record. Please wait until we're out of earshot, and then have at it.

"There is one such rule making. It is the Vanity Call Sign System. PR Docket No. 93-305. Five Petitions for Reconsideration have been filed.

"Our purpose for being here today is to inform you about rule making matters the Commission has already decided or is planning to decide. We also want to listen to any remarks that you may care to make in order to learn about new petitions you might be asking the Commission to consider in the future." [A question and answer period followed.]

EXTRA CLASS HAM LICENSE RENEWAL HELD UP

The FCC is holding the renewal application of George E. Rodgers, N3LR in abeyance pending the outcome of a hearing to determine "...whether Mr. Rodgers possesses the requisite qualifications for a renewal of his amateur service license."

Rodgers, 56 of Downington, PA entered a guilty plea last year and was convicted on four counts of corruption of minors and four counts of indecent assault. The record in this case indicates that Mr. Rodgers attracted his victims through a common interest in amateur radio and that each victim was assaulted while spending a night at Mr. Rodgers' home to use his amateur radio apparatus.

On November 9, 1994, the Court of Common Pleas, Chester County, PA sentenced Rogers to consecutive terms of imprisonment of three to six months for each count. Additionally, the Court ordered Mr. Rodgers to pay fines totalling $200, costs, and restitution up to a total of $20,303 to pay for therapy for his victims.

The FCC said in the Hearing Designation Order "...his conviction for corrupting and indecently assaulting minors attracted through amateur radio is relevant to evaluating the likelihood that he will comply with the Commission's Rules as a licensee in the amateur service." Rogers was ordered to file his request for a hearing prior to May 2nd.

HAM EQUIPMENT SALES TO NON-LICENSED

Russell Stringfield, KB5SCM, president of the Kilocycle Club of Ft. Worth (Texas) has filed a Petition for Rulemaking that seeks a rule change that would make the sale of amateur transmitters illegal to anyone but a licensed amateur radio operator.

He notes that anyone can purchase transceivers or transmitters from any equipment outlet. "The owner-operators-managers of these businesses only care about the money that they can make on the sale of these pieces of equipment, and not about the problems that such sales may cause."

"These un-licensed individuals then leave these establishments, turn on their new radios and wreak havoc with local repeaters, emergency RACES nets, and normal amateur radio communications. They do this by jamming the legal transmissions with rude and indecent transmissions. They also play music and curse profusely ...with no identification."

He said it was not his intent to make sidewalk sales or swapfests illegal, but licensed ham sellers need to check to see if the purchaser has a valid FCC issued license before the transaction is completed.

Stringfield requests that a new Section §97.6 be added to Part 97 to cover the sale of transmitting equipment. The new rule would require all retail or wholesale establishments to record on the sales slip of all new and used transmitting equipment sold, the valid FCC issued amateur station call sign of the purchaser. "Mail orders are permitted if the buyer furnishes the selling establishment with a copy of a valid FCC issued amateur license. Facsimile transmitted copies may be accepted." Transmitter sales between private individuals should be verified at the time the transmitting equipment is transferred to a new owner.

FCC News Bulletin - Report No. 95-6 - May 1, 1995

PROPOSAL TO AMEND AMATEUR SERVICE RULES

The FCC proposed amending the amateur service rules to make the administration of license examinations more efficient by designating one of the volunteer examiners (VEs) the examination session manager, to give examination credit to former licensees, and to ensure that only bona fide amateur service clubs obtain station licenses by increasing the minimum number of members required to constitute an organization eligible for a club station license.

In addition, the FCC included the rule change the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) suggested in its comments in the vanity call sign proceeding. ARRL suggested that one-by-one call signs (for example: K1A, N2B, W3C) be made available for assignment to stations operating in conjunction with short-term events of special significance to the amateur service community.

In responding to informal requests for a rule change, the FCC also has included a proposal to allow indicators, such as /KP2, used in conjunction with station identification, to be included before, after, or both before and after, the assigned call sign.

Action by the Commission April 25, 1995 by NPRM (FCC 95-173) Chairman Hundt, Commissioners Quello, Barrett, Ness and Chong.

[Editor's Note: The above press release and the following Memorandum Report and Order was issued on May 1st and 2nd - after the Dayton Hamvention. Therefore, the FCC did not discuss them in their FCC Forum remarks.]

FCC DECIDES NOT TO ADOPT TEMPORARY OPERATING PROPOSAL FOR NEW AMATEURS

On May 2nd, the FCC released a Memorandum Opinion and Order on PR Docket No. 93-267. The Commission had previously adopted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to amend the Part 97 rules to provide temporary operating authority to a person who passes the examination for a new amateur operator license.

An amateur operator who has passed the required examination, and who has submitted an application to the volunteer examiners (VEs) for a higher class of operator license is authorized to operate his or her station using the greater privileges immediately. A Certificate of Successful Completion (CSCE) is the visible evidence of the examinee's operating authority until receipt of the license document.

There is, however, no comparable procedure for a successful examinee who does not already hold a license. To remedy this situation, the Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society/VEC Inc. filed a petition for rule making (RM-8288) which provided for the temporary use of self-assigned call signs from the "WZ" prefix block. The prefix would be followed by the applicant's radio district numeral and the three initials of their name. (For example: WZ5FOM.) The possibility of such a procedure was first discussed by the FCC at the annual VEC Conference held on June 18, 1993. Once the petition was filed, the Commission issued a NPRM looking toward adopting this proposal.

The FCC said, "The commenters generally oppose the concept of a temporary operating authority for new amateur operators because they fear that it will be abused by persons who would fabricate false call signs and operate without any license. This is in direct contrast to those upgrading, as they already have an FCC-issued call sign. In addition, the commenters assert that the waiting period before receiving a license is not too long and affords a new licensee the opportunity to observe how to communicate in the amateur service."

"In its comments, The American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) noted that electronic filing would save application processing time because the volunteer examiner coordinators (VECs) would enter the data from the applications they receive into an electronic format that can be sent at high speed over telephone lines to the Commission's processing facility. No manual reentering of data by the Commission's staff would be required. Because a license could be received in a relatively short time, less than two weeks, ARRL sees no need for a temporary license procedure."

"A number of other commenters also recommend that the Commission introduce electronic filing into the licensing process. In an Order dated Oct. 17, 1994, the Commission amended the amateur service rules to permit electronic filing by the VECs. Electronic filing has now been implemented on a voluntary basis by the VECs that handle ninety-five percent of the amateur operator licenses. Time is conserved because there is no need for manual re-entry of the data at our licensing facility.

"Finally, authorization to operate the amateur station now commences when our license processing facility grants the license by entering the appropriate data in the amateur service licensee data base. These procedures often allow a new operator to begin operating an amateur station within a few days after the electronically-filed data is received by the Commission.

"Accordingly, we conclude that the implementation of electronic filing of applications has made the proposed temporary operating authority unnecessary. Therefore, we decline to implement a temporary operating authority." [Adopted April 19, 1995, Released May 2, 1995, by MO&O. Proceeding terminated.]

• Effective July 1, 1995, Commercial Radio Operators may begin performing their duties as soon as they have passed the required examinations. Here is the exact wording of the new rule.

§13.9 Eligibility and application for new license or endorsement

(d) Provided that a person's commercial radio operator license was not revoked or suspended, and is not the subject of an ongoing suspension proceeding, a person whose application for a commercial radio operator license has been received by the FCC but which has not yet been acted upon and who holds a PPC(s) (Proof of Passing Certificates) indicating that he or she passed the necessary examination(s) within the previous 365 days, is authorized to exercise the rights and privileges of the operator license for which the application was received. This authority is valid for a period of 90 days from the date the application was received. The FCC, in its discretion, may cancel this temporary conditional operating authority without a hearing.

AMATEUR RADIO CALL SIGNS

...issued as of the first of May 1995:

Radio District	Gp."A" Extra	Gp."B" Advan.	Gp."C" Tech/Gen	Gp."D" Novice
Ø (*)	AAØXH	KGØWA	(***)	KBØSIT
1 (*)	AA1NB	KE1BK	N1UZB	KB1BQA
2 (*)	AA2XG	KG2CN	(***)	KB2ULC
3 (*)	AA3LK	KE3SY	N3VEA	KB3BHX
4 (*)	AE4HK	KS4VU	(***)	KE4ZNV
5 (*)	AC5CH	KK5NW	(***)	KC5OEV
6 (*)	AC6ML	KO6UK	(***)	KE6TKU
7 (*)	AB7JU	KJ7NE	(***)	KC7KRF
8 (*)	AA8TL	KG8QY	(***)	KB8ZEI
9 (*)	AA9ON	KG9CB	(***)	KB9KFO
N.Mariana Is.	KHØR	AHØAW	KHØDW	WHØABC
Guam	WH2O	AH2CZ	KH2NM	WH2ANG
Johnston Is.	AH3D	AH3AD	KH3AG	WH3AAG
Midway Is.		AH4AA	KH4AG	WH4AAH
Hawaii	(**)	AH6OC	(***)	WH6CVA
Kure Is.			KH7AA	
Amer. Samoa	AH8O	AH8AH	KH8CG	WH8ABB
Wake W.Peale	AH9C	AH9AD	KH9AE	WH9AAI
Alaska	(**)	AL7QB	(***)	WL7CMN
Virgin Is.	WP2R	KP2CD	NP2IF	WP2AHV
Puerto Rico	(**)	KP4ZK	(***)	WP4MYB

*= All 1-by-2 & 2-by-1 call signs have been assigned.
**= All Group A (2-by-1) call signs assigned.
***= All Group "C" (N-by-3) call signs assigned
[Source: FCC, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania]

• **Nearly 40% of all amateurs hold a Technician Class license.** There are now 267,305 Technician Class amateur radio operators; 136,288 (or 51%) of whom have passed a Morse code exam.

FEBRUARY AMATEUR LICENSING STATISTICS

February	1992	1993	1994	1995
First Time Licensed				
New Novices	1260	764	194	112
New Tech's	2764	3042	2356	2727
New Tech Plus	N/A	N/A	N/A	270
New General	51	49	31	27
New Advanced	11	15	7	11
New Extra	6	10	1	5
Total New	**4092**	**3880**	**2589**	**3152**
Upgrading: (Changed Class)				
Novices	888	513	262	7
Technicians	635	670	488	652
Tech Plus	N/A	N/A	N/A	558
Generals	417	418	284	635
Advanced	299	268	171	403
Total:	**2239**	**1869**	**1205**	**2255**
Renewals: (All Classes)				
Total Renew:	120	190	1240	2665
Census:				
Indiv. Oper.	**551198**	**596225**	**631042**	**679504**
Change/Year	+46838	+45027	+34817	+48462

Individual Operators by Class: (and % of total)

Extra	Advan.	General	Tech.*	Novice	Total:
February 1988			(*=Includes all Techs)		
44205	98408	113949	**94361**	82390	**433313**
10.1%	22.7%	26.3%	**21.8%**	19.0%	100.0%
February 1989					
47500	99491	114256	**104113**	81092	**446452**
10.6%	22.3%	25.6%	**23.3%**	18.2%	100.0%
February 1990					
49648	100738	115678	**113699**	83364	**463127**
10.7%	21.8%	25.0%	**24.5%**	18.0%	100.0%
February 1991					
54246	105628	120241	**129386**	94859	**504360**
10.6%	20.9%	23.8%	**25.7%**	18.8%	100.0%
February 1992					
58146	108059	123001	**164535**	97457	**551198**
10.6%	19.6%	22.3%	**29.9%**	17.6%	100.0%
February 1993					
61930	110313	125805	**198206**	99971	**596225**
10.4%	18.5%	21.1%	**33.2%**	16.8%	100.0%
February 1994					
64439	111900	125799	**230649**	97255	**631042**
10.4%	17.7%	19.9%	**36.6%**	15.4%	100.0%
February 1995					
69719	115723	128834	**267305**	97923	**679504**
10.3%	17.0%	19.0%	**39.3%**	14.4%	100.0%

Note: Above figures do not include approximately 2500 Club, RACES & Military Recreation amateur stations)
[Source: FCC Licensing Facility, Gettysburg, PA]

TWO SAREX MISSIONS TO FLY IN JUNE!

AMSAT reports that the STS-70 & STS-71 space shuttle launches have been swapped. NASA says the launch of STS-71, which will dock with the MIR space station, has been delayed until June 19th. This delay is caused by the need for a solar panel repair on MIR which will not be completed in time for STS-71.

Therefore,STS-70 will fly first on June 8th. Both are Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) missions. STS-70 with Discovery will carry Mission Specialist Don Thomas (KC5FVF) into a 28.5 degree orbit. He will operate with both FM voice and packet for six days. The usual downlink frequency of 145.550 MHz will be utilized.

STS-71, a 9-day mission, will use a downlink of 145.840 MHz. The STS-71 Atlantis docking mission will use the MIR communication FM voice equipment to simulate SAREX (no packet). It will carry Pilot Charlie Precourt (KB5YSQ) and Mission Specialist Ellen Baker (KB5SIX) in a 51.6 degree orbit.

The Mir crew found out that Russia and the USA do not have a full time Third Party Agreement. There was a temporary agreement when STS-60 was in space, but that one expired. There are plans to put another temporary Third Party Agreement in place, during the STS-71 mission when the U.S. space shuttle docks with the Russian Mir space station. This agreement will also expire at the end of the STS-71 mission.

IS THE INTERNET A THREAT TO HAM RADIO?

The folks at the Amateur Radio Industry Group (ARIG) Dayton meeting seemed to believe 2-way transmissions over the Internet could indeed negatively impact Amateur Radio growth. Hamvention banquet speaker, Cliff Stoll, K7TA did not think so. His view was that ham radio was for experimenters while the Internet was for appliance operators.

We came across an interesting newspaper article entitled "Hello? Hello? Internet Calling" distributed May 3rd nationwide by the Gannett News Service. It tells about how ham operator, Jeffrey Pulver, WA2BOT of Great Neck, NY got his amateur radio license at age 12. He "...spent two decades chatting with people around the world - all for free - getting to know the famous and far-flung by their voices and airwave handles." Now 32, Pulver has QSYed to the Internet for free long distance voice communications and "...his radio equipment is gathering dust." The story goes on to say that Pulver not only makes "global toll calls for zip" but even sees the people he is talking to in a window on his screen. Cost is only $20 to $30 a month for Internet access and there are no Part 97 rules to deal with. Basically anything goes.

The software to do this "...costs less than $100. Anyone with a 14.4 modem, ...a basic Mac or multimedia PC, a SLIP Internet connection and a microphone can talk to anyone else with the same set-up, anywhere, without spending an extra dime." A 28.8 bps modem and an inexpensive ($100) Connectix QuickCam camera/microphone and shareware permits free long-distance videophoning from the Net.

But there is a downside. Experts say the bandwidth needed for 2-way voice and video are placing the Internet at risk. "Without a pricing structure that requires those transferring lots of data at the busiest times to pay for increased capacity [these new features] ...will turn the Internet into the Los Angeles freeway at 5 p.m.," the news article says.

Internet Phone, software developed in Israel and marketed by New Jersey-based VocalTec (Tel. 1-800-843-2289, $59 for IBM/Windows, Mac version not out yet), allows you to be automatically routed to one of several computers around the country listing everyone else with Internet Phone who is currently on-line.

"When you click on their name or on a preconfigured button on your screen, the little phone icon on the receiving end flashes and beeps. It also shows your chosen on-line nickname to the person at the other end... The person being called answers by clicking on the phone icon. What follows is a half-duplex audio exchange ...like a speaker phone where only one person can talk at a time. ...Real novices might want to end their sentences with 'over'..."

There is even a chat mode where you can list your name under a public topic "...and then anyone else using Internet Phone with the same interest can click on your name for a one-on-one conversation..."

"The Internet works by passing along information in packets... Unlike text or graphic files, which can take seconds or even minutes to be assembled on your computer screen, the sound packets in a conversation have to come together almost immediately. ...Internet Phone claims it has 'voice packet reconstruction' and 'delay-handling mechanisms'. ...VocalTec ...offers a 90-second trial so you can experience it yourself. (Web users go to - http://www.vocaltec.com).

Competition is coming! Dallas-based Camelot Corp. has been demonstrating software called Digiphone (expected retail $99), due out in June, will allow full-duplex phone calls. (Your PC must have a full-duplex sound board ...about $150.) But Digiphone also comes bundled with a Web browser (and other Internet connection software), a program that will encode voice and data transfers for greater security and an option of leaving voice-mail on someone's PC if they're not logged on when you call (additional information available at - http://www.ikon.com/digiphone)."